to these communities who were desperately struggling for appointments in the Government service. Heads of Departments should be instructed to consider their applications favourably and to give them suitable appointments. Particular care should be taken to see that the few qualified women among the depressed classes were given due encouragement.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Krishna Panikkar, every attempt is being made to provide equality of opportunity for all communities; and the Government have, for sometime past, not flagged in their efforts to give encouragement to the unrepresented and backward communities.

In the matter of admission of pupils of all communities into all Sirkar schools, this is being steadily worked up to. There are only 12 such schools at present, and even these are being diminished as quickly as possible. Of course, it takes time to find suitable sites for new buildings in cases where the present buildings are unsuitable for the admission of all sections of the public, on account of their location.

168. Needs of the Ezhavas.

MR. K. MADHAVAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that Ezhavas should be entertained more freely in the public service. For some time at least they should also be exempted from the operation of the rule regarding age-bar.

So far as the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly was concerned, at least 10 Ezhava members should be nominated every year to that body.

In the Legislative Council, Ezhavas would never be able to get seats by means of elections under the present rules. The electoral rules should therefore be amended and universal suffrage should be introduced instead of a franchise based on property qualification. If this was not feasible all at once, special constituencies should be formed for the Ezhavas, one for North, another for Central, and a third for South Travancore.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Madhavan, I have no doubt Ezhavas would like to see more of the community in public service; and I should like to see more of them myself. They are a very industrious and hard-working community. But we have to respect the requirements of other communities as well; and what is more, it is not possible to hurry in a matter of this sort. We cannot move more rapidly than at present.

You want that the age limit of 25 should be withdrawn. I should oppose that very strongly. It is a great shame that any man of 25 should not be earning his own living; and it annoys me very much to hear men of 27 and 28 coming and telling me that they are still depending upon their father, or cousin or sister, spending the time when they are getting into the middle of their lives without having begun to earn their own living. In fact I should even consider whether the age limit of 25 is not too high.

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nen, there is another point also you mentioned. What you ask , practically separate representation in the Council for Ezhavas—a rate constituency. The new Council as reconstituted is barely ears of age, and I think it is too soon now to tamper with its present constitution. If inequalities are found to exist, then it will be time enough to take it up when the question of changing the constitution of the Council comes up.

The Assembly rose for the day at 5-25 P. M.

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